

Minutes April 29 KaroEcho Board Meeting 10 am-12 noon

Present KK6GIO, Treasurer; Jamuel, KM6HBO, EC; Hal, KK6NDF, Pres; Don, Ni6a, VP.

Larry, KK6KIO, is filing for KaroEcho in order to ascertain a reduced USPS postage rate as a non-profit educational organization. He will be following up together with Hal on ascertaining a grant writer for specific fund raising targets such as portable go-karts and antennas. Howdy will solicit a Grant Writer in the next KaroEcho Newsletter. The board explored other possible strategies for funding specific projects for funding by El Cerrito businesses, service organizations, the City, and Kensington Public Safety Council

Outreach/Mailing: The Creation of an Ad hoc Membership Working group

It was decided that an Outreach Committee was too broad a title for a manageable working task force; but a Membership Team Lead Person should be recruited in order to establish a working membership committee whose task would be to recruit experienced existing hams who heretofore had left KaroEcho and target new hams. The former task would be to contact all the new hams in KE on a month to month basis. The second task would be to recruit existing experienced hams through a mailer to all hams in El Cerrito/Kensington. Howdy will include the job listing in the next issue of the KaroEcho Newsletter for a KaroEcho membership Team lead person. See: HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/recruitment>" <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/recruitment>

Don, referred to the April 3 Board Meeting reiterating that following a conversation with Chief Gibson, there would be no problem regarding the ham mailing being accomplished via the Fire Department's dime. He told me to arrange the details with Chief Janes. We have an excel spread sheet made by KM6UBY (Edward) that will facilitate this. All we have to do is compose the letter to accompany the envelopes. The point was to target existing hams who have avoided KaroEcho because of past negative associations. Don suggested modifying the previous Fire Department solicitation letter and questionnaire as a starting point for a new KE mass mailing. Additional tasks for a membership committee may also include publicity at events, phone calls, CERT graduating classes, and the like.

A dialog ensued regarding the **installed equipment** at Harding and Tassajara Park. Howdy will pursue the possibility of external access to the antennas by outdoor weatherproof lockable patch boxes so that portable equipment can be accessed during an earthquake. Since access is currently denied, Howdy has removed the radio and power supply from the Harding. In addition Howdy will pursue the idea of installing additional GMRS antennas at the two clubhouses; and also pursue in the future, antennas at Castro, Cerrito Vista, Arlington, and Upper Canyon park clubhouses. If the outdoor antenna access installations are denied, then KaroEcho will pursue the building of additional go-karts.

A portable cart with wheels, a portable gain antenna, tripod, coax, suitable battery to sustain a 50 watt Kenwood radio operating at 50% duty cycle, float charger, a switched voltmeter, Anderson powerpole receptacles, operating manual, forms, the KE Field Operations Manual, Simplex frequency list, miscellaneous wire, fuses, adaptors, and the like (as per K6RJM's example). The board agreed that the position of an equipment Manager and task force was needed to keep track of all KaroEcho antennas, radios, power supplies, batteries and perform regular maintenance. Howdy will place a solicitation for such a working committee lead in the next KaroEcho Newsletter. See this topic here: HYPERLINK "<https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/physical-infrastructure>" <https://www.karoecho.net/workstreams/physical-infrastructure>

Don will pursue with Chief Janes ascertaining the missing float charger and antenna to complete the existing go-kart. Don will also attempt to move forward the letter to all KE hams with Chief Janes that would be sent by the Fire Department.

Don's proposal to push for the city to install a gain GMRS antenna and radio at the EOC was voted down.

It was agreed that we need to **shorten the business section** of the general meetings while at the same time give everyone input. Strategies as how to equitably accomplish that were discussed. It was agreed that the business meeting section of the general meeting should not exceed 45 minutes at the very longest; thus providing ample time for training. This can be accomplished by tasking the executive board with taking up the task to move forward policy, vision, and structural decisions prior to the general meetings.

Forthcoming Training topics such as antennas, go-kart building, net procedures, message handling, and the use of the Karo-Echo Field Operations Guidebook were decided upon as future training topics. A hands-on Emcomm antenna workshop is planned for the next general meeting.

Don again brought up the need to **clarify our relationship with CERT**, as CERT currently has no disaster operations plan or communications plan. There is currently no Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with CERT and no Disaster EmComm Module. Except for EC4, EC9, and Ken 6, our offers to provide Emcomms for CERT areas have been ignored. More than half of the CERT Area Coordinator (AC) jobs are vacant, and there are currently no updated lists of CERT staging areas. At this point it seems that only EC9, EC4, and Ken 6 have stepped forward asking for comms. If we do not have a client (served agency), then our motivation as a volunteer organization becomes diminished. Don expressed the impossibility to deploy EMcomms to areas that are not known and do not have an active AC who expresses a need for EMcomm; or for a disaster preparedness organization that has no disaster plan for earthquakes or related disruption of conventional power and communications. Similarly, the CERT Director had previously expressed interest in integrating a **Comm Module** or partial comm training in the CERT 8 week training program at one time. But now, that seems to also be put on hold.

ACTION ITEMS that were discussed; but no actions were taken:

A) An action item is to lobby the city council and general manager regarding hiring a director of OES so that the Fire Dept. would not have to expend its already overtaxed resources on CERT; while concentrating on fire prevention and evacuation.

B) A further action item discussed was to lobby the city and staff to create a volunteer Disaster Services advisory Committee or Board that reported to the City Council. Howdy suggested that a City sponsored Volunteer Board/Commission could be a step in that direction. He will continue to pursue such as an individual.

C) Also discussed (mainly by Don) that if KE CERT continues to wash its hands of CERT as an operational/functional force (post-graduation), then one alternative is to create something like Berkeley's BDPNN NGO to facilitate this function (a totally voluntary Community run non-profit organization). Outreach to community service organizations, Church groups, and local businesses may provide funding. However, this would be a huge undertaking and KaroEcho would not be able to support such alone. Such would require both an increased informed awareness by the KE Community and a genuine desire to place community disaster preparedness as a priority mobilizing our vast potential resources already present in KE.

Redacted by, Don, ni6a – 04-29-2009